

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/696,361

Examiner

Susan S. Lee

Applicant(s)

NAKAMURA ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 9/19/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2,3,5-13,15,17-19.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 20060926.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Francis Plati, Sr. (59,153) on September 26, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

See the attached faxed amendment.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for allowance of claims 6, 2, 3, 5, and 7-13, is the inclusion of a process for cleaning by heating and pressuring a cleaning sheet with a heating and pressuring means, the cleaning sheet being fed through an image forming apparatus such that stains are removed. The heating and pressuring means is at least one of a fixing belt and a fixing roller; and the cleaning sheet has a support and a layer containing a thermoplastic resin over the support; wherein the cleaning sheet is in the form of a roll that is cut according to the measurements $L1$ (length of the cleaning sheet) such that $L1 > L2$ and $L1 > L3$; $L2 > L4$ and $L3 > L4$. $L2$ is a perimeter of the fixing roller, $L3$ is a perimeter of the fixing belt; and $L4$ represents a length of a smallest electrophotographic image-receiving sheet in a direction of feeding the electrophotographic image-receiving sheet. This in combination with the rest of the

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limitations of claims is found in all of claims 6, 2, 3, 5, and 7-13, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 18, 15, 17, and 19, is the inclusion of a heating and pressuring means for heating and pressuring a cleaning sheet, the cleaning sheet being fed through an image forming apparatus such that stains are removed. The heating and pressuring means is at least one of a fixing belt and a fixing roller; and the cleaning sheet has a support and a layer containing a thermoplastic resin over the support; wherein the cleaning sheet is in the form of a roll that is cut according to the measurements L_1 (length of the cleaning sheet) such that $L_1 > L_2$ and $L_1 > L_3$; $L_2 > L_4$ and $L_3 > L_4$. L_2 is a perimeter of the fixing roller, L_3 is a perimeter of the fixing belt; and L_4 represents a length of a smallest electrophotographic image-receiving sheet in a direction of feeding the electrophotographic image-receiving sheet. This in combination with the rest of the limitations of claims is found in all of claims 18, 15, 17, and 19, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan S. Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-


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2137. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri., 10:30-8:00, Second Monday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Gray can be reached on 571-272-2119 or 571-272-2800 (Ext. 52).

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Susan S. Lee
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2852

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